

Appl. No. 09/868,379

Amendment dated June 22, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of March 22, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented): A suspension of one or more phosphate, fluoride, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in a liquid medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.

9. (previously presented): The suspension of claim 8, comprising 1% to 40% by weight of the one or more calcium salts and 0.1% to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the one or more calcium salts, of the water-soluble surfactant or the water-soluble polymeric protective colloid.

10. (currently amended): The suspension of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein the water soluble surfactant comprises one or more non-ionic surfactants, the suspension comprising 1% to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the one or more calcium salts, of the one or more nonionic surfactants.

Appl. No. 09/868,379

Amendment dated June 22, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of March 22, 2004

11. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a suspension of poorly soluble calcium salts, comprising the steps of precipitating one or more phosphate, fluoride, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in an aqueous medium in which these salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, said precipitation being carried out in the presence of water-soluble surfactants or water-soluble polymeric protective colloids such that a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of the water-soluble surfactant or water-soluble polymeric protective colloid is adsorbed onto said particles.

12. (previously presented): The process of claim 11, wherein the aqueous medium is an acidic solution of a water-soluble calcium salt and a stoichiometric amount of a water-soluble phosphate salt with a pH below 3, and the precipitation is effected by increasing the pH using aqueous alkalis or ammonia in the presence of the water-soluble surfactants or water-soluble polymeric protective colloids.

13. (previously presented): A toothpaste comprising one or more silica polishing agents, humectants, binders or aromas and 0.1-5% by weight of one or more calcium salts selected from the group consisting of amorphous calcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, fluorapatite, and calcium fluoride, said calcium salts being present in the form of a suspension of one or more of the salts in a liquid

Appl. No. 09/868,379

Amendment dated June 22, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of March 22, 2004

medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.

14. (previously presented): A method of remineralizing teeth comprising the steps of applying to a tooth a remineralizing-effective amount of a suspension of one or more phosphate, fluoride, or fluorophosphate calcium salts in a liquid medium in which the salts are less than 1 g/l soluble, wherein the calcium salts comprise primary particles having diameters of from 5 to 50 nanometers and lengths of from 10 to 150 nanometers, stabilized against agglomeration by a content of at least 0.01% by weight, based on the weight of the suspension, of a water-soluble surfactant or of a water-soluble polymeric protective colloid adsorbed onto said particles.